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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,494	09/08/2003	Kc Liu	TH3098	2027
23632	7590	10/09/2007		
SHELL OIL COMPANY P O BOX 2463 HOUSTON, TX 772522463			EXAMINER	
			JOHNSON, EDWARD M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1793	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/658,494	LIU ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Edward M. Johnson	1754		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maunula US 2002/0054843 in view of Buchanan et al. US 5,591,417.

Regarding claim 1, Maunula '843 discloses a method for purifying exhaust comprising contacting the exhaust with a unified NO_x adsorbent catalyst and particle separator system (see 0012), wherein the system comprises a ceramic having a honeycomb structure (see 0047), and regenerating the system (see 0048 and Example 1).

Maunula fails to disclose regeneration with syngas and internal combustion engines.

Buchanan '417 discloses regeneration with syngas (see column 7, lines 1-11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the syngas regeneration of Buchanan in the exhaust purifying method of Maunula because Buchanan discloses the syngas regeneration for use in a process for removing NOx (title), which permits a reduction in combustion air and temperature, and improves fuel efficiency and NOx reduction (see column 3, lines 15-21). Furthermore, "industrial plants" are disclosed and internal combustion engines are used in industrial plants.

Regarding claims 8-9, Maunula discloses Ba, platinum, and examples of nitrates, sulfates, which would at least suggest carbonates (0023 and 0024).

Regarding claims 10-11, Maunula discloses the system comprises a ceramic having a honeycomb structure (see 0047).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 8/9/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is argued that in the Office Action, the Examiner appears... in the preamble. This is not persuasive because Applicant appears to admit that "industrial plants" are disclosed and internal combustion engines are used in industrial plants.

It is argued that the Examiner asserts... (see column 3, lines 15-21). This is not persuasive because the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the syngas regeneration of Buchanan in the exhaust purifying method of Maunula because Buchanan discloses the syngas regeneration for use in a process for removing NO_x (title), which permits a reduction in combustion air and temperature, and improves fuel efficiency and NO_x reduction (see column 3, lines 15-21).

It is argued that additionally MPEP 2143... the claim limitations. This is not persuasive because Maunula discloses a ceramic having a honeycomb structure (see 0047), which would at least suggest the claimed interdigitated filter comprising the claimed channels.

Conclusion

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward M. Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-1352. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley S. Silverman can be reached on 571-272-1358. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Edward M. Johnson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1754

EMJ